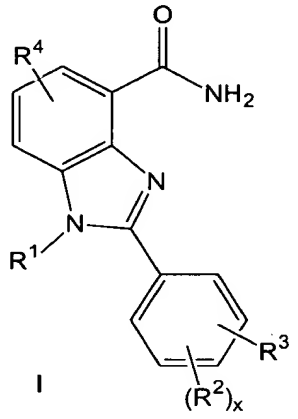
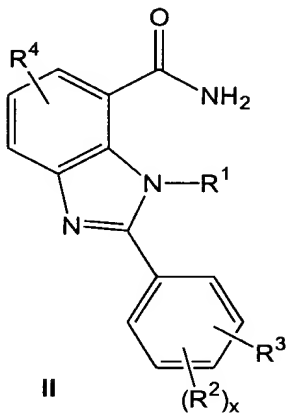
In the Claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A compound of the Formula I or II



I



II

in which

R^1 is hydrogen, or branched and unbranched C_1-C_6-alkyl, it also being possible for one C atom of the alkyl radical to carry OR^{11} or a group R^5, where R^{11} is hydrogen or C_1-C_4-alkyl, and

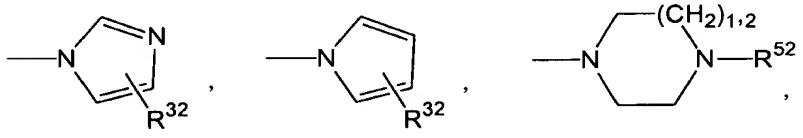
R^2 is hydrogen, chlorine, bromine, iodine, fluorine, ~~CF3~~ CF_3, nitro, $NHCOR^{21}$, $NR^{22}R^{23}$, OH, O-C_1-C_4-alkyl, O-C_1-C_4-alkylphenyl, NH_2, CN, a straight or branched C_1-C_6-alkyl, OR^{21} or phenyl, it also being possible for the phenyl rings to be substituted by at most two radicals R^{24}, and R^{21} and R^{22}, independently of one another, are hydrogen or C_1-C_4-alkyl, and R^{23} is hydrogen, C_1-C_4-alkyl or phenyl, and R^{24} is OH, ~~C_1-C_6-alkyl~~ C_1-C_6-alkyl, O-C_1-C_4-alkyl, chlorine, bromine, iodine, fluorine, CF_3, nitro or NH_2, and

x may be 0, 1 or 2. and

R^3 is ~~-D-$(F^1)_p$-$(E)_q$-$(F^2)_r$-G~~ -D-$(F^1)_p$-$(E)_q$-$(F^2)_r$-G, where p, q and r may not simultaneously be 0, or is ~~-E-$(D)_u$-$(F^2)_s$-$(G)_v$~~ -E-$(D)_u$-$(F^2)_s$-$(G)_v$, it also being

possible for the radical E to be substituted by one or two radicals A, and

if v = 0, E is imidazole, pyrrole, pyridine, pyrimidine, piperazine, pyrazine, pyrrolidine or piperidine, or R^3 is $-O-(CH_2)_o-(CHR^{31})_m-(CH_2)_n-G$,



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or R^3 is B, and

R^{31} is hydrogen, C_1-C_4-alkyl, OH or O-C_1-C_4-alkyl and

R^{32} is hydrogen, $-(CH_2)_o-(CHR^{31})_m-(CH_2)_n-G$ or $-(CH_2)_p-G$,

m and o independently of each other are 0, 1, or 2 and

n may be 1, 2, 3 or 4 and

R^4 is hydrogen, chlorine, fluorine, bromine, iodine, branched and unbranched C_1-C_6-alkyl, OH, nitro, CF_3, CN, $NR^{41}R^{42}$, NH-CO-R^{43} or O-C_1-C_4-alkyl, where R^{41} and R^{42}, independently of one another, are hydrogen or C_1-C_4-alkyl and

R^{43} is hydrogen, C_1-C_4-alkyl, C_1-C_4-alkylphenyl or phenyl, and

D is S or ~~θ~~ O, and

E is phenyl, imidazole, pyrrole, thiophene, pyridine, pyrimidine, piperazine, pyrazine, furan, thiazole, isoxazole, pyrrolidine, piperidine or trihydroazepine, and

F^1 is a chain of 1 to 8 carbon atoms, it also being possible for one carbon atom of the chain to carry an OH or O-C_1-C_4-alkyl group, and

F^2 is a chain of 1 to 8 carbon atoms, it also being possible for one carbon atom of the chain to carry an OH or O-C_1-C_4-alkyl group, and

p may be 0 or 1,

q may be 0 or 1,

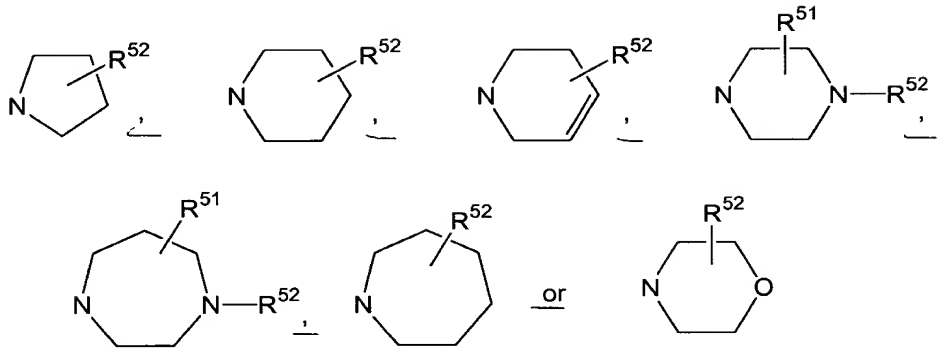
r may be 0 or 1,

s may be 0 or 1,

u may be 0 or ~~1~~1,

v may be 0 or 1, and

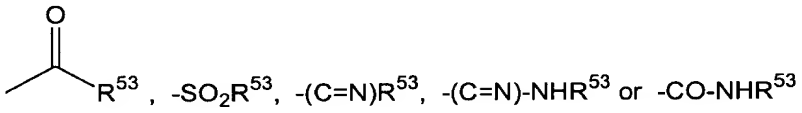
G may be $NR^{51}R^{52}$ or



and

R^{51} is hydrogen or branched and unbranched C_1-C_6-alkyl or $(CH_2)_t$-K, and

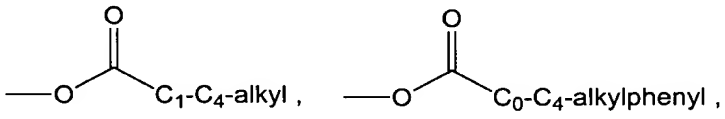
R^{52} is hydrogen, branched and unbranched C_1-C_6-alkyl, $COCH_3$, $COCF_3$, phenyl,



in which

R^{53} may be branched or unbranched O-C_1-C_6-alkyl, phenyl or branched or unbranched C_1-C_4-alkylphenyl, where in the case of R^{52} and R^{53}, independently of one another, one hydrogen of the C_1-C_6-alkyl radical may be substituted by one of the following radicals: OH, O-C_1-C_4-alkyl, cyclohexyl, cyclopentyl, tetrahydronaphthyl, cyclopropyl, cyclobutyl, cycloheptyl, naphthyl and phenyl, it also being possible for

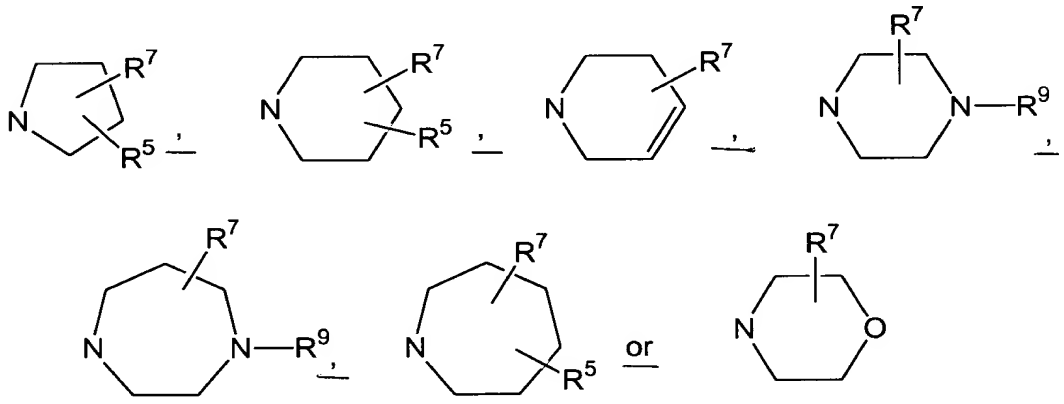
the carbocycles of the radicals R^{52} and R^{53}, independently of one another, to carry one or two of the following radicals: branched or unbranched C_1-C_6-alkyl, branched or unbranched O-C_1-C_4-alkyl, OH, F, Cl, Br, ~~I~~ I, CF_3, ~~NO_2~~ NO_2, NH_2, CN, COOH, $COOC_1$-C_4-alkyl, ~~C_1-C_4-alkylamino~~ C_1-C_4-alkylamino, CCl_3, ~~C_1-C_4-dialkylamino~~ C_1-C_4-dialkylamino, SO_2-C_1-C_4-alkyl, SO_2phenyl, $CONH_2$, CONH-C_1-C_4-alkyl, CONHphenyl, CONH-C_1-C_4-alkylphenyl, $NHSO_2$-C_1-C_4-alkyl, $NHSO_2$phenyl, S-C_1-C_4-alkyl,



CHO, CH_2-O-C_1-C_4-alkyl, -CH_2O-C_1-C_4-alkylphenyl, -CH_2OH, -SO-C_1-C_4-alkyl, -SO-C_1-C_4-alkylphenyl, -SO_2NH_2, -SO_2NH- C_1-C_4-alkyl, or

two radicals form a bridge -O-$(CH_2)_{1,2}$-O-,

B may be



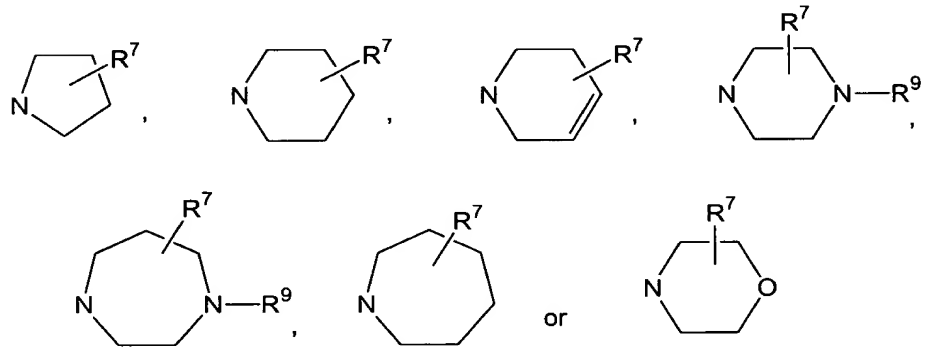
and

A may be hydrogen, chlorine, bromine, iodine, fluorine, CF_3, nitro, OH, O-C_1-C_4-alkyl, O-C_1-C_4-alkylphenyl, NH_2, branched and unbranched C_1-C_6-alkyl, CN or NH-CO-R^{33}, where R^{33} is hydrogen, C_1-C_4-alkyl or phenyl, and

t is 0, 1, 2, 3, or 4 and

K is phenyl, ~~which may carry at most two radicals, is~~ $NR^{k1}R^{k2}$ where R^{k1} and R^{k2} are as defined for R^{41} and R^{42} respectively, NH-C_1-C_4-alkylphenyl, pyrrolidine, piperidine, 1,2,5,6-tetrahydropyridine, morpholine, trihydroazepine, piperazine, which may also be substituted by an alkyl radical C_1-C_6-alkyl or homopiperazine, which may also be substituted by an alkyl radical C_1-C_6-alkyl, and

R^5 may be hydrogen, C_1-C_6-alkyl, NR^7R^9 ~~and~~



and

R^7 is hydrogen, C_1-C_6-alkyl, C_1-C_4-alkylphenyl or phenyl, it also being possible for the rings to be substituted by up to two radicals R^{71}, and

R^{71} is OH, C_1-C_6-alkyl, O-C_1-C_4-alkyl, chlorine, bromine, iodine, fluorine, CF_3, nitro or NH_2, and

R^8 is hydrogen, C_1-C_6-alkyl, phenyl or ~~C1-C4-alkylphenyl~~ C_1-C_4-alkylphenyl, it also being possible for the ring to be substituted by up to two radicals R^{81}, and

R^{81} is OH, C_1-C_6-alkyl, O-C_1-C_4-alkyl, chlorine, bromine, iodine, fluorine, CF_3, nitro, or NH_2, and

R^9 is hydrogen, $COCH_3$, CO-O-C_1-C_4-alkyl, $COCF_3$, branched and unbranched C_1-C_6-alkyl, it being possible for one or two hydrogens of the C_1-C_6-alkyl radical to be substituted in each case by one of the following radicals: OH, O-C_1-C_4-alkyl or phenyl, and for the phenyl ring also to carry one or two of the following radicals: iodine, chlorine, bromine, fluorine, branched or unbranched C_1-C_6-alkyl, nitro, amino, C_1-C_4-alkylamino, C_1-C_4-dialkylamino, OH, O-C_1-C_4-alkyl, CN, CF_3 or SO_2-C_1-C_4-alkyl,

or a tautomeric form, a possible enantiomeric or disasteriomeric form, a prodrug or pharmacologically tolerated salt thereof.

2. (Currently Amended) A compound of the formula I or II as claimed in claim 1 in which

R^1 is hydrogen, branched and unbranched ~~C1-C6-alkyl~~ C_1-C_6-alkyl, it also being possible for one C atom of the alkyl radical to carry OR^{11} or a group R^5, where

R^{11} is hydrogen or C_1-C_4-alkyl, and

R^2 is hydrogen, chlorine, fluorine, bromine, iodine, branched and unbranched C_1-C_6-alkyl, nitro, CF_3, CN, ~~$NR^{22}R^{23}$~~, NH-CO-R^{21}, or OR^{21}, where

R^{21} ~~and R^{22} are, independently of one another,~~ is hydrogen or C_1-C_4-alkyl, and

~~R23 is hydrogen or C_1-C_4-alkyl or phenyl, and~~

R^3 is $-O-(CH_2)_o-(CHR^{31})_m-(CH_2)_n-G$, where

R^{31} is hydrogen, C_1-C_4-alkyl, OH ~~and~~ or O-C_1-C_4-alkyl,

m and o are, independently of one another, 0, 1 or 2, and

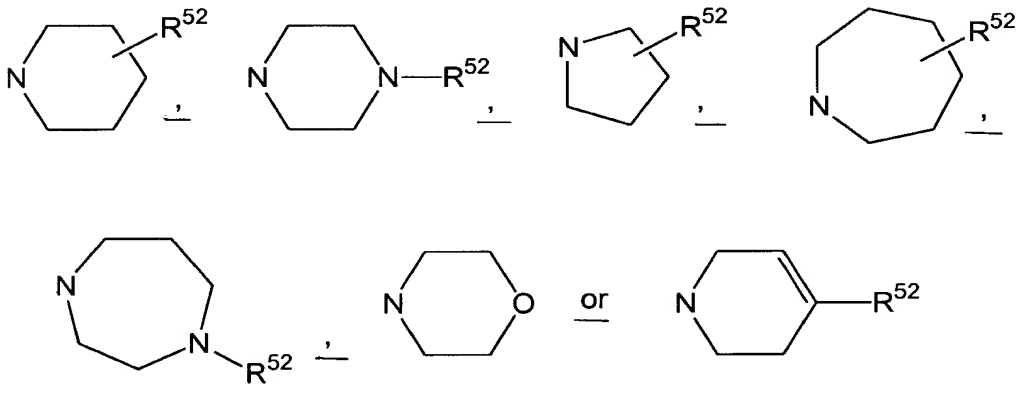
n is 1, 2, 3 or 4, and

R^4 is hydrogen, branched and unbranched C_1-C_6-alkyl, chlorine, bromine, fluorine, nitro, cyano, $NR^{41}R^{42}$, NH-CO-R^{43}, or OR^{41}, where

R^{41} and R^{42} are, independently of one another, hydrogen or C_1-C_4-alkyl, and

R^{43} is ~~C^+-C_4-alkyl~~ C_1-C_4-alkyl or phenyl, and

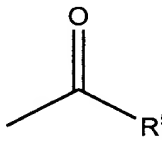
G is $NR^{51}R^{52}$ or one of the following radicals



where

R^{51} is hydrogen and branched and unbranched C_1-C_6-alkyl, and

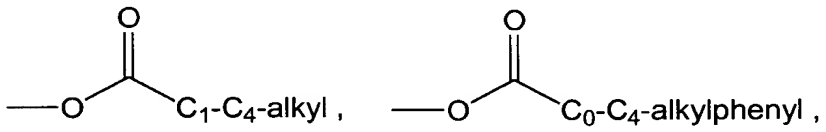
R^{52} hydrogen, branched and unbranched C_1-C_6-alkyl, phenyl,



, or SO_2R^{53}

in which

R^{53} is branched or unbranched O-C_1-C_6-alkyl, phenyl, branched or unbranched C_1-C_4-alkyl-phenyl, where one hydrogen in the C_1-C_6-alkyl radical in R^{52} and R^{53} can, independently of one another, be substituted by one of the following radicals: OH, O-C_1-C_4-alkyl, cyclohexyl, cyclopentyl, tetrahydronaphthyl, cyclopropyl, cyclobutyl, cycloheptyl, naphthyl and phenyl, where the carbocycles of the R^{52} and R^{53} radicals may also, independently of one another, carry one or two of the following radicals: branched or unbranched C_1-C_6-alkyl, branched or unbranched O-C_1-C_4-alkyl, OH, F, ~~C_1~~ Cl, Br, ~~I~~ I, CF_3, ~~NO_2~~ NO_2, NH_2, CN, COOH, $COOC_1$-C_4-alkyl, C_1-C_4-alkylamino, CCl_3, C_1-C_4-dialkylamino, SO_2-C_1-C_4-alkyl, SO_2phenyl, $CONH_2$, CONH-C_1-C_4-alkyl, CONHphenyl, CONH-C_1-C_4-alkyl-phenyl, $NHSO_2$-C_1-C_4-alkyl, $NHSO_2$phenyl, S-C_1-C_4-alkyl,



CHO, CH_2-O-C_1-C_4-alkyl, -CH_2O-C_1-C_4-alkyl-phenyl, -CH_2OH, -SO-C_1-C_4-alkyl, -SO-C_1-C_4-alkyl-phenyl, SO_2NH_2, or -SO_2NH-C_1-C_4-alkyl

and two radicals form a bridge -O-$(CH_2)_{1,2}$-O-,

or the tautomeric form, possible enantiomeric and diastereomeric forms thereof, the prodrugs thereof, and ~~pharmacologically~~ physiologically tolerated salts thereof.

3. (Currently Amended) A compound of the formula I or II as claimed in claim 1 in which

R^1 is hydrogen, branched and unbranched C_1-C_6-alkyl, it also being possible for one C atom of the alkyl radical to carry OR^{11} or a group R^5, where

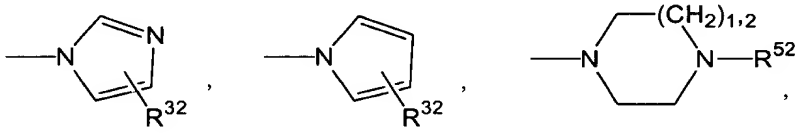
R^{11} is hydrogen or C_1-C_4-alkyl, and

R^2 is hydrogen, chlorine, fluorine, bromine, iodine, branched and unbranched C_1-C_6-alkyl, nitro, CF_3, CN, ~~$NR^{22}R^{23}$~~, NH-CO-R^{21}, OR^{21}, where

R^{21} ~~and R^{22} independently of one another are~~ is hydrogen or C_1-C_4-alkyl and

~~R^{23} is hydrogen, C1-C4-alkyl or phenyl~~

R^3 is



and

R^{32} is hydrogen ~~and~~ or -$(CH_2)_o$-$(CHR^{31})_m$-$(CH_2)_n$-G, where R^{31} is hydrogen, C_1-C_4-alkyl, OH ~~and~~ or O-C_1-C_4-alkyl,

m, and o independently of one another are ~~m~~ 0, 1 or 2 and

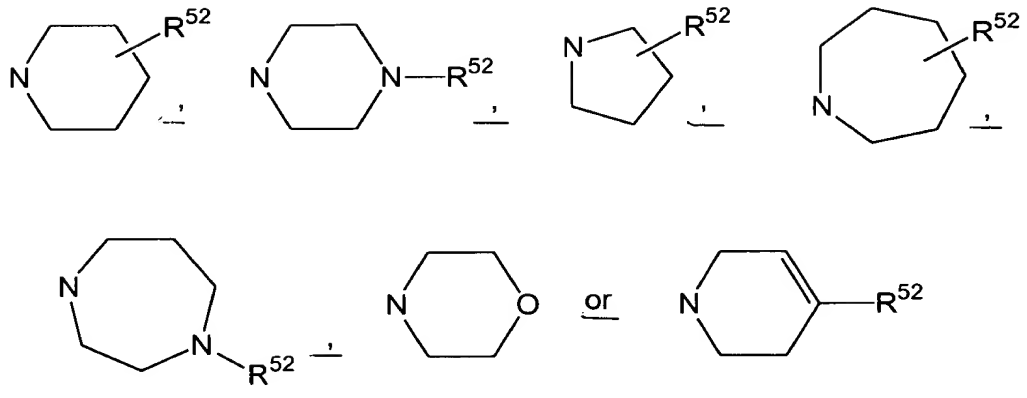
n is 1, 2, 3 or 4, and

R^4 is hydrogen, branched and unbranched C_1-C_6-alkyl, chlorine, bromine, fluorine, nitro, cyano, $NR^{41}R^{42}$, NH-CO-R^{43}, or OR^{41}, where

R^{41} and R^{42} independently of one another are hydrogen or C_1-C_4-alkyl and

R^{43} is C_1-C_4-alkyl or phenyl, and

G is $NR^{51}R^{52}$ or one of the radicals below



where

R^{51} is hydrogen ~~and~~ or branched and unbranched C_1-C_6-alkyl and

R^{52} is hydrogen, $COCH_3$, CO-O-C_1-C_4-alkyl, $COCF_3$, or branched and unbranched C_1-C_6-alkyl, it being possible for one hydrogen of the C_1-C_6-alkyl radical to be substituted by one of the following radicals: OH, O-C_1-C_4-alkyl and phenyl and for the phenyl ring also to carry one or two of the following radicals: chlorine, bromine, fluorine, branched and unbranched C_1-C_4-alkyl, nitro, amino, C_1-C_4-alkylamino, C_1-C_4-dialkylamino, OH, O-C_1-C_4-alkyl, and CN, SO_2-C_1-C_4-alkyl,

and the tautomeric forms, ~~a~~ possible enantiomeric and diastereomeric forms thereof, ~~a~~ the prodrugs thereof, ~~or~~ and ~~pharmacologically~~ physiologically tolerated salts thereof.

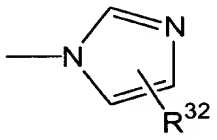
4. (Previously Presented) A compound as claimed in claim 1, where R^2 is in position 3 and R^3 is in position 4 or R^2 is in position 4 and R^3 is in position 3 relative to the benzimidazole ring.

5. (Previously Presented) A compound as claimed in claim 1, where R^1 and R^4 are hydrogen.

6. (Previously Presented) A compound as claimed in claim 1, where R^2 is hydrogen, branched or unbranched C_1-C_6-alkyl, nitro, CN, NH_2, or O-C_1-C_4-alkyl.

7. (Currently Amended) A compound as claimed in claim 1 where

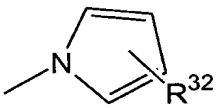
(i) for R^3 being



~~R^{31}~~ R^{32} is hydrogen or ~~$-(CH_2)_w-G$~~ $-(CH_2)_p-G$, where

~~w~~ p is 1 or 2 and

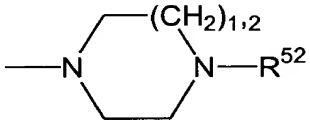
(ii) for R^3 being



~~R^{31}~~ R^{32} is hydrogen or $-(CH_2)_p-G$, where

p is 1 or 2 and

and (iii) for R^3 being



~~where~~

R^{52} is hydrogen, branched and unbranched C_1-C_6-alkyl, where one hydrogen of the C_1-C_6-alkyl radical may be substituted by one of the following radicals: OH, O-C_1-C_4-alkyl and phenyl, and where the phenyl ring may also carry one or two of

the following radicals: chlorine, bromine, fluorine, branched and unbranched C_1-C_4-alkyl, nitro, amino, C_1-C_4-alkylamino, C_1-C_4-dialkylamino, OH, O-C_1-C_4-alkyl, CN, and SO_2-C_1-C_4-alkyl.

8. (Currently Amended) A compound as claimed in claim 1, where R^3 is –D-$(F^1)_p$-$(E)_q$-$(F^2)_r$-G where D is O, ~~F1~~ F^1 is a C_1-C_4 carbon chain, p is 1, q is 0 and r is 0.

9. (Previously Presented) A compound as claimed in claim 1, where R^5 is a 6-membered ring and R^{52} is an optionally substituted phenyl ring.

10. (Previously Presented) A drug comprising besides conventional vehicles and ancillary substances a compound as claimed in claim 1.

11. (Previously Presented) A method for treating a disorder in which pathologically elevated PARP activities occur, said method comprising administering an effective amount of a compound of the formula I as claimed in claim 1 to a mammal suffering from said disorder.

12. (Currently Amended) ~~The use of compounds of the formula I~~ The method as claimed in claim 11 wherein the disorder is a neurodegenerative disease or involves neuronal damage.

13. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 12, wherein the neurodegenerative disease or neuronal damage is induced by ischemia, trauma or massive

bleeding.

14. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 11 wherein the disorder is stroke or craniocerebral trauma.

15. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 11 wherein the disorder is Alzheimer's disease ~~and~~ or Huntington's disease.

16. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 11 wherein the disorder is damage due to ischemia.

17. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 11 wherein the disorder is epilepsy.

18. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 11 wherein the disorder is damage to the kidneys after renal ischemia, damage caused by drug therapy or damage resulting after kidney transplants.

19. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 11 wherein the disorder is damage to the heart after cardiac ischemia.

20. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 11 wherein the disorder is a ~~microinfarcts~~ microinfarct.

21. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 11 wherein the disorder is under vascularization of critically narrowed coronary arteries.

22. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 11 wherein the disorder is an acute myocardial infarct ~~and~~ or damage during an after medical or mechanical lysis thereof.

23. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 11 wherein the disorder is a tumor or metastasis thereof.

24. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 11 wherein the disorder is sepsis of multi-organ failure.

25. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 11 wherein the disorder is an immunological disease.

26. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 11 wherein the disorder is diabetes mellitus.